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SPACE CENTER Roundup

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OSHA recommends JSC for VPP Star



JSC Photo S99-05551 by James Blair

Following announcement of OSHA's recommendation of JSC for VPP Star status, JSC Director George Abbey and Seemore Safety are all smiles with OSHA representatives, from left to right, Tom Staggs, safety specialist; Carlos Reynolds, industrial hygienist; William Klingbeil, team leader; Marianne McGee, industrial hygienist; Sheila Schulmeyer, safety specialist; O.J. Alvarez, backup team leader; S.R. Srinivasan, industrial hygienist.

Klingbeil continued, "A big part of the evaluation is how serious you are in responding to deficiencies, even though they are minor. We found no major ones. And, you have clearly shown us how serious you are about getting things done." Klingbeil further reminded that safety and health are not things that are done to get into the VPP, saying, "You do it to protect your employees."

Responding to the enormous honor that had just been bestowed on the JSC safety program, Center Director George Abbey said to Klingbeil and his team, "I appreciate all of your kind words and want to give you our vote of thanks. We are taking all of your comments to heart. As Rich Dinkel (deputy director, Safety, Reliability, and Quality Assurance Directorate) said, 'This is just the beginning,' and we look forward to your coming back." Then, addressing the audience, Abbey said, "I want to thank you.

This is happening because of you. You are our greatest resource, and we do have a safe environment for our people. We will continue to improve because of you, and I thank you for everything you do."

By Mary Peterson

The mood was definitely upbeat, the air electric, as a capacity crowd of civil service and contractor safety employees filled the Bldg. 30 auditorium to overflowing on the morning of May 14 to hear William Klingbeil, OSHA Region VI Voluntary Protection Program manager,

you find, we want to get it solved and want it done now! Our [JSC] goal is no 90-day contingency items." Klingbeil paused and said, "Our recommendation is to place you in the Star program."

With this, the audience jumped to its feet and exploded into a roar of approval that

Congratulations to the entire JSC Team for a job well done!

make his pronouncement. Like nervous schoolchildren awaiting the final report card, the eager audience hung on every word. They would soon learn the outcome of the two-week site inspection just completed by the OSHA-VPP team. Finally, it came.

"You probably want to know where you are in this [Demonstration, Merit, or Star site]," Klingbeil began casually. "The team got together this morning. We did find some minor deficiencies – that were addressed. We talked about the possibility of your being in the Merit program," he said, as audience tension mounted, "but, we realized you were far beyond Merit." Most other facilities, he explained, would have been assigned a few 90-day contingency items, meaning they would have had faults that would take 60 to 90 days to correct. "I was told upon my arrival here," he continued, "that, 'Whatever

could have launched a thousand rockets.

This was the culmination of months of intense activity on the part of countless volunteers in the VPP to see that not only JSC was shipshape, its employees educated, and all documentation in place, but that careful plans had been laid to make the OSHA visitors' inspection tour as complete and trouble-free as possible.

All of the hard work and planning was recognized by the OSHA team which was generous with its praise for the help it had received. At least two of the team members, Carlos Reynolds and O. J. Alvarez, at the end of their remarks, applauded the JSC group themselves.

While the excitement of the moment was hard to subdue, Klingbeil reminded everyone that this was not the end, but rather, was the beginning.

In addition to Klingbeil, Alvarez, and Reynolds other members of the OSHA-VPP team included Tom Staggs, Sheila Schulmeyer, Marianne McGee, and S. R. Srinivasan.

Following the stated recommendation for Star site status, the formal paperwork will be

"You deserve a Star rating at this facility, and you were very well prepared for our visit," he said. "Had you deserved Merit instead, we would have told you.

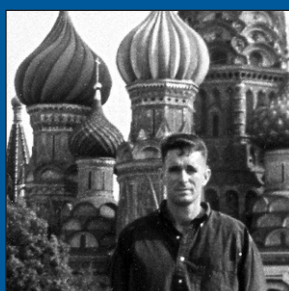
"But," he warned, "yours is not a perfect program. I have seen very few that I have recommended without contingencies. I can't emphasize enough how important it is to continue with your program, and I know you didn't accomplish what you have done [the entire spectrum of safety and health] in just the past two weeks."

submitted to OSHA headquarters in Washington, D.C., via the Region VI offices in Dallas. Once final approval is granted, Klingbeil will be in touch with the safety office to make arrangements for the formal presentation of the VPP Star flag, designating, for all to see, that JSC is truly a center for excellence in occupational safety and health. ■



Contractors
recognized with
Low Awards.

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Tech-Trans helps
Team NASA
in Moscow.

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Space Hall of
Fame honors
cardiac device.

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